NO MORE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BOSSES!

FIGHT FOR

£4.50

PER HOUR MINIMUM WAGE

Lobby ICTU Conference, Liberty Hall,
September 26th, 12.30 to 2.00pm

Called by the Socialist Workers Party

Socialist Worker

Shop assistants can earn as little as £2.41 an hour in Londis and Centra shops. And these are *official* wage rates set by the Joint Labour Committee for the retail trade.

Wages in the hotel industry are so bad that employers cannot recruit enough workers. They have had to hire Spanish students who work for terrible wage rates while learning English.

But for others it is a different story. Brian Brittan, for example, was a director of the Goodman company who got paid £150 an hour just to turn up to give evidence at the beef tribunal!

It is high time that our unions mounted a fight against the low paid sweat shops that are springing up around the country. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions should be demanding a £4.50 an hour minimum wage.

They should tell the government they want this legally enforced. Employers are not supposed to flout the laws on safety—so why should they get away with paying poverty wages.

But they should also organise for action in any workplace that does not pay the £4.50 rate.

Fighting for a minimum wage will mean a change in how our unions operate. For the last nine years, we have had social partnership deals which promised job creation in return for wage restraint.

But there are more people unemployed in 1996 than there were in 1986 when these programmes started!

Instead of any more partnership deals with the bosses, our unions should start fighting for workers rights.

We need a mass recruitment drive to sign people up into the unions with a guarantee that the unions will fight for £4.50 minimum wage.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

■Order petitions from *Socialist Worker* to take around your workplace to demand that the ICTU take up this demand.

■Get union cards for low paid workers and encourage them to join up.

■Come to the lobby of the ICTU on September 26th outside Liberty Hall at 12.30 to 2pm.

Join the Socialist Workers Party

If you would like to join us or find out more fill in the slip and return to PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Tel (01) 872 2682

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Telephone _____

❑ I want to join the SWP

❑ I want more details

❑ want to receive *Socialist Worker* regularly